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Sutherland Hospital kiosk makes a lot of dough

Biting into a sandwich has never tasted so good with more than \$2 million raised by Kiosk volunteers to buy medical equipment at Sutherland Hospital

In fact, over the past 52 years the Kiosk volunteers have put knife to bread, making more than 936,000 sandwiches for staff and visitors.

It takes a lot of sandwiches being sold to buy more than \$2,040,000 worth of medical equipment, and no one knows this better than the volunteers.

This hard working group of men and women are champions when it comes to turning caring into cash with more than \$152,000 donated last year alone, for the purchase of diathermy machines for the hospital's operating theatres and portable monitors for the emergency department.

Among the 84-strong volunteer team is Cronulla resident Pat Markham who has been assisting in the Kiosk for the past 37 years, serving staff and visitors.

"I enjoy volunteering and working with other volunteers to make a difference, it's incredibly rewarding to help others," Mrs Markham said.

Another volunteer, Kiosk President Margaret McKerihan, Cronulla resident, agreed.

"Working in the Kiosk as a volunteer keeps all of us busy, but the rewards are great. It gives friendship and purpose to a busy day," Mrs McKerihan said.

"It's been an incredible effort by the volunteers over many years to raise funds for the purchase of medical equipment. When you see your hard work improving the quality of life of a patient, it's a wonderful feeling.

"The staff and visitors are important and we love looking after them all. They are always appreciative of our efforts and we love to get feedback from the wards about the equipment we have purchased," she said.

Since 1960, the Kiosk Committee has supported more than 420 pieces of medical equipment to all clinical areas of the hospital.

Director of Operations, St George and Sutherland Hospitals, Cath Whitehurst said the local community was extremely fortunate to have the support of such a hardworking group of volunteers.

"It's a credit to the women who created the Kiosk and the volunteers who have supported this endeavour since 1960 to have raised so much money in support of their local hospital," Ms Whitehurst said.

"Sutherland Hospital is extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated band of volunteers who give freely of their time for the benefit of their local community. They are a fine example of the community spirit that is certainly alive and well in the Sutherland Shire," she said.

South Eastern Sydney Local Health District

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